

Greg Jones

SPECIAL

6/15

## EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT,

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

June 27, 1984

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON

84-2292

LEGISLATIVE REFERRAL MEMORANDUM

TO: Legislative Liaison Officer

Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
 Department of State  
 Department of Defense  
 Central Intelligence Agency  
 Department of the Treasury  
 Department of Energy

SUBJECT: Department of Justice views on S. 2470, a bill  
 "To provide for the national security by allowing  
 access to certain Federal criminal history records."

The Office of Management and Budget requests the views of your agency on the above subject before advising on its relationship to the program of the President, in accordance with OMB Circular A-19.

A response to this request for your views is needed no later than  
 July 5, 1984

Questions should be referred to Gregory Jones (395-3856), the legislative analyst in this office.

  
 James C. Murr for  
 Assistant Director for  
 Legislative Reference

Enclosures

cc: Cecelia Wirtz Sue Thau  
 Tom Palmieri Adrian Curtis

Completed really w/ OMB  
 7/5/84 - no objection



## Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

Honorable Strom Thurmond  
 Chairman  
 Committee on the Judiciary  
 United States Senate  
 Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

By letter dated March 28, 1984, you transmitted a copy of S.2470 to the Department of Justice (DOJ) and requested that the DOJ provide comments on the bill to your Committee.

S.2470 recognizes the potential for harm to the national security if an individual having access to nuclear power facilities and nuclear materials should abuse such access. To diminish such potential for harm or damage, the bill provides for a screening procedure for those having unescorted access to nuclear power facilities. Thus, the bill proposes amending the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 to add a new Section 149. This Section provides that every person licensed or in the process of being licensed to operate a utilization facility pursuant to certain sections of the Act shall require that each individual allowed unescorted access to the facility be fingerprinted. These fingerprints shall be submitted to the Attorney General through a person or persons designated by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in consultation with the Attorney General for identification and appropriate processing. The NRC, by rule may relieve persons from the obligations of this requirement if such action is consistent with the NRC's responsibilities.

This language is similar to other laws which permit the DOJ to perform identification checks for certain individuals in sensitive areas. These checks are handled by the FBI's Identification Division. For example, under Section 14(f) of Public Law 94-29, every member of a national securities exchange, broker, dealer, etc., is required to submit fingerprints of its partners, directors, officers, and employees to the Attorney

Honorable Strom Thurmond

General for identification and appropriate processing. Further, Section 233 of Public Law 97-444 provides that each commodities futures association must require applicants to be fingerprinted and must submit the fingerprints to the Attorney General for identification and appropriate processing. The DOJ believes that the interest of the NRC in insuring the security of its facilities merits a law giving them the ability to screen certain individuals having unescorted access to the facilities by requiring such individuals to undergo a criminal history record check by the FBI's Identification Division.

However, although the DOJ supports the intent of this bill, we have identified several concerns with the proposed new Section 149, (Subsection a.) of the Atomic Energy Act. This Subsection provides the following:

"a. Every person in the process of being licensed or licensed pursuant to section 103 or 104b to operate a utilization facility shall require that each individual allowed unescorted access to the facility be fingerprinted. All fingerprints obtained by a licensee as required in the preceding sentence shall be submitted to the Attorney General of the United States through a person or persons designated by the Commission in consultation with the Attorney General for identification and appropriate processing. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the licensee may receive from the Attorney General the results of such search."

For the reasons set forth below, the DOJ recommends the following changes to this Subsection of the bill:

1. In the second sentence of the proposed Subsection, between "licensee" and "as required" insert "or potential licensee."

This change is recommended to clarify an apparent discrepancy in the Subsection as currently written. In the first sentence of the Subsection, the bill provides that "every person in the process of being licensed or licensed" shall require that individuals with unescorted access to

Honorable Strom Thurmond

the facilities be fingerprinted. This language would therefore apply to both licensees and potential licensees. However, in the second sentence, only a licensee is mentioned as being required to submit the fingerprints of certain individuals to the Attorney General for appropriate processing. The DOJ can see no reason why the potential licensee should be required to have certain individuals fingerprinted, but then be precluded from sending those fingerprints to the Attorney General through the appropriate channelling person and subject to the guidelines and procedures established to accommodate these record requests. Therefore, the DOJ recommends that the second sentence be amended to specifically include potential licensees.

2. The last sentence of the proposed Subsection is deleted and the following is substituted in its place:

"The Attorney General may provide all the results of the search, notwithstanding any other provision of law, to such person or persons as designated by the Commission in consultation with the Attorney General."

The second sentence of this Subsection provides that all fingerprints obtained by a licensee shall be submitted to the Attorney General through a person or persons designated by the NRC in consultation with the Attorney General. This language, by providing for a channelling agency or authority, recognizes the large administrative burden which would be placed on the FBI if it had to determine whether each individual licensee was an appropriate party to make a record check request. In adopting this language, the channelling agency would assume the administrative burden of approving the requests of the licensees, and protecting against misuses of the criminal history information. (This procedure is similar to that used by the securities and commodities futures industries.)

Although the bill establishes the channelling agency for submission of the fingerprint cards, it ignores this entity when it addresses who should receive the criminal history information. In the last sentence of this Subsection, only the licensee is authorized to receive the results of the criminal history record search. The DOJ objects to this language which restricts to whom

Honorable Strom Thurmond

the DOJ can furnish the record. First, the current language would not permit a potential licensee to receive the record. Second, the language ignores the existence of the channelling authority which would be funnelling the fingerprints to the Attorney General but would be precluded from receiving the records. At this time, the DOJ cannot speculate as to whether it would be more efficient and less burdensome on the FBI to have the channelling authority or the licensees and potential licensees receive the record information. Therefore, the DOJ recommends that the language be changed as suggested above to allow the NRC in consultation with the Attorney General to make the determination as to whom the record check shall be sent.

The DOJ recommends enactment of this legislation if amended as suggested above. The Office of Management and Budget has advised DOJ that there is no objection to the submission of this report from the standpoint of the administration's program.

Sincerely,

Robert A. McConnell  
Assistant Attorney General  
Office of Legislative and  
Intergovernmental Affairs